

Services for Local Retarded 7/13/73 Topic of Meeting

Local and State representatives from different organizations met at the courthouse to discuss services for the retarded available in the future.

Barbara Bair, a social worker in the field of mental retardation in Utah County called the meeting to find out what the needs of the retarded in our area are. She will also meet with the people of Summit County. She will then attempt to determine if the services of the American Fork Training School and the Community of Provo can be coordinated to also meet the needs of the other two counties.

Our school district is serving us well in Special Education Classes for trainable and educable children in all levels of our schools. There is, however, no program for preschool children where mothers may learn to help their retarded child, from infancy on to school age.

There is no Activity or Sheltered Workshop for over school age persons where they may learn specific job tasks and then move out into the community. Here, under special supervision, they would also have the beneficial association of others, who like them, are learning a skill.

Some counties have Group Homes where six or eight people live together with two "parents" who are specially trained in caring for the mentally retarded. Here also they are able to participate in activities with others on their own level.

In order for us to have any of these programs we need to know how many need and want these services. Mentally retarded people, are people and they deserve to work and play as anyone else does. But they cannot without help. If you have or know of such a person or are interested in helping them or would like to join the Wasatch-Summit Association for Retarded Children, please call

Dorothy Turner, 654-1836 or the Community Health Nurse, Maren Durtschi - 654-2102.

Herald and Times Oct 30, 73
**Senior Citizen
Health Course
Set in Heber**

HEBER — A course is being offered in Wasatch County for senior citizens entitled "General Health Topics," announced Maren Durtschi, Community Health Nurse. The first class will be held Thursday, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Wasatch County Courthouse.

Mrs. Durtschi explained that the purpose of these classes is to assist the senior citizens, and anyone else interested, in understanding some of the diseases that an older person may develop. She said that people sometimes wait until a disease process is far advanced before seeking help. It may then be more difficult to treat and some of the effects may be irreversible.

It was stressed, however, that this class is not a clinic, no diagnosis will be made and no treatment will be prescribed.

The topics to be discussed include cancer, diabetes, cataracts, glaucoma, Medicare, range of motion (a mild form of exercise which used by many people to keep their joints "limbered up"), and anything else the group is interested in.

The classes will be held most Thursdays, from 2 to 3 p.m., and will be arranged around the Senior Citizens calendar of events. The class of November 8th will be from 3 to 4 p.m. There will be no classes held on Nov. 15th and Nov. 22nd, due to Thanksgiving. Class will resume again on November 29th.

A film entitled "The Different World of Utah" will be shown at the first meeting on Nov. 1st.

Douglas L. Merkley Named Superintendent of Schools



Douglas L. Merkley

Lazy Eye Clinic

9-10-18-73

Lazy eye causes blindness in one eye (Amblyopia) if not detected in the young child and treated. "Lazy eye" refers not to actual laziness but to misuse of one eye due to either muscle imbalance or some other condition of a child's eye so that he blots out the vision of that eye. If the child does not use this eye as vision develops up to the age of seven he will be blind, either partially or completely in that eye. This can be detected by a simple vision screening. Bring your 4 or 5 year old child to the courthouse in Heber, Friday, October 26th between 9 a.m.

and 12:00 p.m. to be sure he is developing sight in both eyes.

If a younger child appears to have any difficulty at all such as: (1) a muscle imbalance, no matter how slight, (2) rubs eyes frequently, (3) reddened eyes, (4) or seems to have any problem with them, it would be wise to have him examined by a specialist.

Very young children are usually unable to participate in a clinic situation, but a specialist will be able to determine if there is any condition that needs treatment. The younger a child is when treated the more vision he will develop.

Irene Smith preparing, Kate

The Wasatch School Board of education is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Douglas L. Merkley as Superintendent of schools of the Wasatch School District.

Mr. Merkley is a native son of Vernal, Utah, receiving his early education in the Uintah School District. He is a veteran of World War II and served in the U.S. Army for 18 months

in the Philippines with the rank of Sergeant.

Mr. Merkley received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1950 from the Utah State University. He continued his education at Brigham Young University and received a Masters of Education Degree in 1963. While attending BYU he was awarded the Phi Delta Kappa Award for outstanding Research in 1963.

Mr. Merkley's teaching experience includes eight years at the Wasatch High teaching Vocational Agriculture. Since 1959 he has served as Counselor, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services. He has also served on the Education Committee of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Timpanogos Mental Health Center.

The Merkley family includes Rhea Huber from LaPoint, Utah, who Doug married in 1947, and three boys -- Chris now serving an LDS Mission, Kevin, Robert and one girl Marie. Douglas is very active in the LDS Church having served in many offices and organizations. At present, he is a member of the Wasatch Stake High Council.

11/1/73 Wave
Free Measles Clinic to Be Held Nov. 8th

A free measles immunization clinic will be held in Heber City on Thursday, November 8th from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., according to Maren Durtschi, Community Health Nurse for Wasatch County.

The clinic will be in the multi-purpose room of the Wasatch County Courthouse and will offer free immunizations to pre-school children against Rubella and red measles. The children may be immunized against one type of measles, or may receive one combination shot against both types.

Rubella measles, Mrs. Durtschi explained, is very dangerous to expectant mothers, causing birth defects if contracted during the first three months of pregnancy. If measles can be eliminated in young children, so that they cannot expose pregnant mothers, then the number of birth defects will be reduced, she said.

The health nurse went on to say that many rashes can be mistaken for the German measles rash, and if children did not contract the true Rubella measles, they are still susceptible to the disease. She also pointed out that in some cases, previous measles immunizations may not have "taken" and it would therefore be wise for some pre-schoolers to be re-immunized.

Board of Health
Is Without Co. Sanitarian

Wave
11/1/73

The Board of Health of Wasatch County is without a county sanitarian at the present time and they are hoping to obtain a new sanitarian who is in close proximity to the county's needs, according to Wasatch County Commissioner Harold H. Smith. He is also a member of the health board.

According to Commissioner Smith, the former sanitarian, Ariel Michie, functioned as sanitarian and has a

Thursday, November 1, 1973

Lazy Eye Clinic

Maren Durtschi, Community Health Nurse for Wasatch County reports that the Lazy Eye (Amblyopia) Clinic held Friday in Heber City was very successful. Seventy-nine children were examined and three were referred to specialists.

Mrs. Durtschi wishes to express appreciation to the volunteers who helped test the four and five year old children, namely Carol Glather, R.N., Joyce Dudley, Betty Hogan, Liz MacEwen and Nelda Duke, secretary for the Board of Health.

She also expressed appreciation to the P.T.A. Health Chairman, Jeanne Budd, who helped organize the volunteers for the clinic.



OVERCOMES HANDICAP—Amy Jordan has learned to draw and type with her toes as she overcomes her disability. She is a patient at Heber Valley Care Center.

Cerebral Palsy Victim Learns to Type and Paint Unusual Way

Fifty year old Amy Jordan able to use a typewriter and sit in a coloring book with yons. For most people, there's nothing unusual about acquiring these skills—but most people can use their hands; Amy Jordan can't.

Amy Jordan, a victim of cerebral palsy, has been paralized since infancy and spends most of her time in a wheel chair. She now resides at Heber Valley Care Center. The Center's staff reports that Amy began acquiring coloring skills early in her life by spilling a crayon between her toes and coloring in children's coloring books.

Even though she has had no normal schooling because of her physical and mental handicaps, she has also learned to type. Typing is somewhat slow because of the fact that she can only type one letter at a time using the eraser end of a pen held between her toes. Her favorite typing activity is a short letter to her father who is in Salt Lake County. It sometimes takes several days to finish each letter. The typewriter she uses was donated by a Heber citizen who heard her skills.

She can also do other things with her feet such as catching ball, putting on her shoes and socks and making her own

bed.

Amy's friends at the Center say that her cheerful attitude helps everyone. She likes music and especially enjoys singing hymns at the weekly church services.

Typewriter Given to Cerebral Palsy Victim

There was a wonderful response to the article "Cerebral Palsy Victim Needs Used Typewriter" which appeared in last week's Wave.

Friday afternoon, an excellent electric typewriter was delivered to the young lady who suffers from this disease. She is greatly handicapped, unable to communicate with speech and unable to control her hands. She paints with her feet using crayons.

She was excited and enthusiastic and within minutes after the County Health Nurse had set up the typewriter and explained to her how to use it, she was writing her name perfectly.

Wasatch Co. To Help Seniors

Special to The Tribune

HEBER CITY — A senior citizens program is being developed for Wasatch County residents.

Through the cooperation of Wasatch County commissioners, the county school district and the Utah State Council on Aging, funds have been made

Mar 1973 Daily Herald Appoints New Correspondent To Serve Heber Area

Carol Wurth has been named the new correspondent for Wasatch County by The Daily Herald. Shirley Chatwin will continue, however, as correspondent for the Midway area.

Mrs. Wurth resides at Hailstone Junction, seven miles north of Heber City with her husband, Robert "Rod" Wurth, and two children — Sherlyn Jean, 11, and Timothy Robert, 7. Both her children attend North Elementary School in Heber City.

The new correspondent was born and raised in San Diego

County, Calif., the eldest of seven children. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Alcaraz, reside in National City where she attended school.

During high school Mrs. Wurth majored in journalism and worked in the school newspaper. Upon graduation from high school in 1959, she went to work as a secretary for a savings and loan association in San Diego, and continued working after her marriage.

Since moving to Heber City a year and a half ago, she has taken an active interest in writing for newspapers. She created a garden column in the Wasatch Wave, entitled "Garden Chat with Carol Wurth," which she continued until she went to work full-time for the Wasatch County Sheriff as a secretary.

Mrs. Wurth continued to write articles for the county, and since resigning her job at the courthouse, has decided to pursue her journalism interest further by providing Wasatch County news to The Daily Herald.

Anyone having news items they wish published should call Carol Wurth at 654-2179. Pictures of engagements, marriages, awards or news of any type will be accepted.



CAROL WURTH

Handicapped Children Have the Time of Their Lives October 25

Thursday, October 25th, several retarded children had the time of their lives. They played games, shot baskets and got plenty of good exercise for two hours in the Wasatch Junior High School Gymnasium. Their parents came to drop them off and many ended up staying to watch and laugh along with their children as they played.

Gay Greer, a junior at BYU majoring in P.E. has consented to spend her time each Thursday to conduct programs for the mentally retarded in the county. Each week she plans something new. She has access to all the equipment in the Junior High gym. She works well with the children and they respond quickly to her. Gay hopes to afford the children with a pleasant experience as well as to develop their motor skills.

The program is sponsored by Community Schools and the Association for the Mentally Retarded in Wasatch County. It is free of charge. Through the Wasatch Planning Committee, the program will hopefully include all the mentally retarded children in the county. Eventually volunteers will pick up each child and take them to the re-

creation hour and take them home after.

Anyone interested is welcome to come and watch or help out. The program is successful because of the efforts of many. Thanks to all those involved especially Hal Johnson and Dorothy Turner. Call 654-2653.

Why Rule Out Raw Milk? If Residents Prefer It?

Jan 16, 1974

Editor Herald:

What is wrong here in Utah County? Why isn't one allowed to buy raw milk if one so desires?

We have a daughter who has 10 children, one a Lamanite, who has been able to buy it until recently. These children need milk, and to pay the high price from a store, up to 42 cents a quart, would cut down on their amount tremendously.

And they prefer raw milk. The officials say it's harmful. Well,

isn't and hasn't liquor and cigarettes been proven bad for the health? Then why can one buy them in any store, anywhere?

Doctors and the government have proven them unhealthy. Is it because the big companies are simply crushing the small ones out? Almost as one crushes an ant with one's foot. Why?

Sincerely,
Vera Lesher
Rt. 1 Box 39 A
Pleasant Grove

Provo Herald

1-23-74

74 Strawberry Association Reorganizes

By JOE LYNN TYLTON.

PAYSON — Sylvester Allen of Mapleton, president of the Strawberry Water Users Association, was re-elected to the board by unanimous vote of those attending the annual shareholders meeting held in Payson High School Saturday evening.

Handicapped Services Holds 4th Meeting

The Wasatch County Committee for Services to the Handicapped held its fourth meeting on Wednesday, October 8th from 1-3 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the County Courthouse. The Committee is headed by Mr. Hal Johnson, who is Supervisor of Special Education in Wasatch County and consultant for several other counties. The Committee was formed to establish goals for programs to aid the handicapped in Wasatch County. Presently the Committee is involved with programs for the retarded.

Included on this Committee is Hal Johnson; Barbara Bair, social worker from the American Fork Training Center; Maren Durttschi, County Nurse; Ray Peterson, Wasatch County Lions Club; Francis Frost, Regional Nursing Consultant; Verle Tolley, Jim Nowa and Sue Taft, Wasatch Community Schools; Dorothy Turner, President of Wasatch-Summit Association for Retarded Children; Jerry Springer, Division of Rehabilitation; Duane Price, Employment Security; and Lowell Coleman, County Welfare Department. Leo Garcia, representing World of Work, also attended this meeting.

The Committee decided to hire a recreation supervisor to run a two-hour activity on Tuesdays at the Jr. High School through Community Schools.

The Committee would like to welcome anyone interested to attend their meetings.

3-County Health Meet Set

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN

Utah County commissioners and health officials are seeking a Friday meeting with county commissioners of Wasatch and Summit to discuss health services in the Mountainland area.

The decision to seek a meeting was made at the Utah County commission meeting Monday with Dr. Seth Smoot, director, and Glen Sagers, chief sanitarian, of the City-County Health Department.

Commissioner Paul Thorn and Dr. Smoot both spoke against having the City-County Health Department come under the Mountainland Association of Governments.

Dr. Smoot pointed out that Utah County has over 165,000 people, while Wasatch and Summit counties have only about 15,000. "We can furnish any health services they are willing to pay for, but I do not see why a Board of Health in Utah County would consider joining MAG," he stated.

Commissioner Thorn declared that Utah County's health department is functioning well and providing excellent service. If it were merged with Mountainland Association of Governments, the control would lie with Summit and Wasatch counties, since they have two-thirds of the vote, he said.

PVO
HEARLD
1-24-74

Dr. Smoot advocated having each county with its own board of health, since only the residents of each county would really know the health needs of that county. "It would take a 30-man board to serve all three counties effectively," he stated.

Commissioner Thorn said Utah County is under a great deal of pressure from the State Board of Health to go Mountainland with its health department. "They came down here last week with a contract all ready for us to sign, but we would not sign it," he asserted.

The commissioner emphasized that the other two counties in MAG could purchase health services from Utah County at less cost than if they went through MAG.

Dr. Smoot charged that placing Utah County in a regional organization with Summit and Wasatch counties is an "unrealistic division." He declared that Summit county



STATE OF UTAH—DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CALVIN L. RA
Governor

PAUL S. ROSE
Executive Director

DIVISION OF HEALTH
44 MEDICAL DRIVE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84113
AREA CODE 801

328-6163

July 17, 1974

LYMAN J. OLSEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

Board of Health
Air Conservation Committee
Health Facilities Council
Medical Examiner Committee
Nursing Home Advisory Council
Water Pollution Committee

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
72 East 4th South
Salt Lake City, Utah

R. Raymond Green, M.D., Director
Wasatch County Health Department
Courthouse
Heber City, UT 84032

Dear Dr. Green:

Enclosed are copies of food service inspection reports for Wasatch County for the period April, 1974 through June, 1974. Also enclosed are the results of bacteriological examinations by the state lab for private and public water supplys, and swimming pools for Wasatch County.

Very truly yours,

Mervin R. Reid, Chief
General Sanitation Section

LPB:co

Enclosure

**Health Board
Makes a 7/25/74
Ruling on Cabins**

1974

**Tuberculin Skin
Tests
Being Offered**

Tuberculin skin tests will be offered to all food handlers, beauticians and barbers on July 29th, 31st and August 2nd. Letters have been sent out to the people involved or their employers according to County Health Nurse Maren Durtschi.

The tests will be given at the Health Department in the County Courthouse between the hours of 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Readings of the tests will be made by Mrs. Durtschi 48 hours later. Anyone with a positive reaction will be referred to the State Health Department for a chest x-ray.

Mrs. Durtschi stressed that anyone having a positive reaction does not necessarily have active Tuberculosis, but they could be carrying a tubercle bacillus germ, which lies dormant for long periods of time.

She added that the germ may become active during times of stress or illness but if caught early can be treated with medication. If left untreated, it can start to multiply and become active tuberculous.

There have been 15,444 active tuberculous cases reported in the United States during the first half of this year.

The Wasatch County Board of Health has decreed that building permits will no longer be issued for summer cabins unless the owner complies with the state requirements for sewage disposal and agrees to provide plumbing facilities in the dwelling for a toilet and a sink. The decision was made Friday during a special meeting between the local health board and two representatives from the Bureau of Environmental Health Division of the State Board of Health.

Lynden Baum and Frank Jackson, representatives of the State Board of Health, outlined the problems associated with construction of summer homes. They cited cases where the owner failed to take percolation tests for a disposal system prior to constructing their cabins, only to discover that a septic system would be unfeasible.

One particular case mentioned was where a \$32,000 summer home was constructed in a subdivision where the ground water was within inches of the surface.

The state officials suggested that the county board make a ruling which would prohibit prospective cabin owners from building a home without determining first whether they could have adequate waste facilities. They requested that the plot plans for a prospective building be submitted to the state agency for approval prior to issuance of building permits from the county.

The county health board also agreed to prohibit holding tanks for disposal use and will require 900 gallon water tanks for each cabin. The ruling against sewage holding tanks was made because there is no dumping facility available.



You Bet They Can Close It!

The Strawberry Water Users wanted to hang this reporter in effigy the other day when I suggested that the Wasatch County Board of Health might close Strawberry Reservoir to public use.

That's if the users had had an old suit of clothes, as ancient as mine, to put on the stake and set a flame to.

But what shocks me, and anyone else who knows about health matters, is why the users, or anyone else would question what a board of health can or cannot do.

In the many years past if there has been an unsafe situation exist in our community or state the board of health has been called upon to either clean it up or close it. And in this respect we can say hooray for a lot of bad health we might have avoided because it had this power.

The Utah State Board of Health said recently that nothing in the state's health history has brought more adverse comment to the state board than the filthy conditions at Strawberry Reservoir.

And it was only recently that state and county boards of health agreed that if something wasn't done to clean up some of that filth that the lake would be closed to public use.

The Tall Sage Brush

Sometimes you can't get action until you get the supreme edict and maybe the best thing that could happen to this high mountain cesspool is for it to be shut down pending some changes in our health ways.

Then, possibly, we would get action. But somehow here in the old wild west we have the history of being optional about such things as sanitation. We've grown up under the sagebrush system — as long as it's tall enough to cover that's all it takes.

I agree with Charles Woodbury and Frank Madsen, camp owners, when they say that people are the dirtiest persons. The guy who stands around the shoreline, who won't walk several hundred yards to the toilet facilities — or who won't dispose of his fish cleanings, or take away the garbage he brought in!

The truth of the matter is that the whole place needs cleaning. The private privies are good and bad. But they are not of the standard required of good health.

We should require nothing short of the standard that our federal recreational places have — regardless of costs. You can't skimp on health.

Eliminate The Congestion

In our planning for the next season, or the rest of this, we should weigh heavily this matter of opening day. It has become an impossible situation, as the officials of the Strawberry Water Users have admitted.

One of them said that they could never agree with this reporter's argument against opening day until now and it's clear that something must be done.

If our health experts feel that opening days (and they should take a big look at the situation Saturday) should be abolished they should recommend such to the proper authorities.

It's time now that we face up to the facts or forever live in the fever of our filth. Fishing isn't worth it, now or ever.

Strawberry Reservoir is more than the highest cesspool in the state. It's the greatest fishing facility in the west — wonder and pleasure

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It's time now that we face up to the facts or forever live in the fever of our filth. Fishing isn't worth it, now or evermore.

Strawberry Reservoir can be more than the highest cesspool in the state. It's the greatest fishing facility in the west — poundage and pleasure considered. It deserves better care than it's had.

If those in charge cannot meet a safe minimum requirement in health matters let's turn it over to someone who can.

operations, which a state health official said "simply do not measure up to state standards governing water supplies and waste disposal systems."

But in the last analysis, the same official said, final decision on whether the trailer courts operate this year will be up to Wasatch County officials.

Dr. Larry Duke, chairman of the Wasatch County Board of Health, said his agency would meet in the next few days to decide the issue.

No Danger

Dr. Duke emphasized there is no danger of the reservoir being closed to fishing this season. "That is not and never was our intention," he said.

Richard A. Sweet, supervisory sanitarian for the Utah Division of Health, summed up six problems of major concern thusly:

Six Problems

1. Water. Status of drinking water remains doubtful, but the state will be willing to go along for another year provided county supplies regular samples for state analysis.

2. Waste disposal. Woeful lack of facilities around reservoir, but has been improved by Strawberry Water-users' Assn., which will have 52 toilets for public use on June 6

to undertake expensive court sanitation projects, "because we may be moved out of here within a few years when the new Strawberry Dam is completed."

Everyone was agreed that the biggest headache from the sanitation angle occurs on the opening weekend. Fish and Game officers estimated 15,000 persons were at Strawberry on last year's opener and they expect that many again this year.

The groups inspected several fishing camp sites and also looked at the new Forest Service campground project on Bryant Fork. This campground, which is expected to be in use by July 1, will take care of around 60 family units, thus reducing pressure on other areas.